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South Oxfordshire Combined
Districts

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for the Year
1958

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
OF THE SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE COMBINED DISTRICTS
FOR 1958.

To the Mayor, Chairmen, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Constituent Authorities.

My Lord, Ladies. and Gentlemen,

I submit, herewith, my eighth annual report on the state of the Public Health in the South Oxfordshire Combined Districts, incorporating the information required by Circular 22/58 of the Ministry of Health. Unhappily I can take little pride or pleasure in this year's report which, for the following reasons, is only a shadow of its former self.

1. The Ministry now direct that this report shall be published as soon as possible after the receipt from the Registrar General of the Vital Statistics for the year in question. These, be it noted, have arrived even later than usual this year, the second batch not reaching this office until well into May. The first batch was so poorly printed as to be very confusing and difficult to interpret.

Much of the information incorporated in my previous reports has come from the first quarterly return of the Registrar General for the year after the year in question and as this does not arrive until July of this following year, I have not been able to wait for it. This, to my mind, is a very great pity since it means that comparisons, of deaths notably, between the C.D. and E.W. are no longer possible. The report thus loses half its value, for if any such comparisons are made by the Minister, the C.D. are certainly not informed of them.

2. The Joint Committee have, for some years past, been becoming increasingly restive over the report's cost (which like everything else, has been steadily rising), and have called for economies. These of course can be effected only by shortening the report, cutting the tables and accepting less elaborate printing.

My belief has always been that the more relevant matter which can be included the better. I have always therefore hitherto provided all the information I could lay my hands on, especially as virtually none of this information is published elsewhere. This year, in deference to the Committee's wish to save money, I have included only such material as is specifically asked for by the Minister. I shall, nonetheless, ask the P.H.s for some years to come to send me their material based on 1957 standards in the hope that at some future date it may be possible to re-establish the report in full.

For the time being, therefore, in order to provide as cheap a report as possible, the following have been deleted, or no longer provided in tabular form:

1. List of Joint Committee Members,
2. List of Public Health Staff,
3. Causes of Death Tables,
4. Notifiable Diseases Table,
5. Tuberculosis Table,
6. Housing Tables,
7. Prevention of Damage by Pests Act Tables,
8. Tables of Parish Populations and Dwellings,
9. Itemised Bacteriological and Water Samples Tables.

A considerable amount of material has been reprinted en bloc and unchanged from year to year and I propose, forthwith, to refer in these cases to the 1957 report.

3. I cannot pretend that in its new form the report will be as easy to read or interpret, but this appears to be a matter of little concern. At the last meeting of the Joint Committee it was stated, with few dissentient voices, that the report should be as brief as possible since no one reads it anyway. I find this disappointing, but of course I accept the verdict. Having for years tried to make the report readable and a little out of the ordinary I shall henceforth spare myself the considerable extra labour involved, and the South Oxfordshire report will be a typical M.O.H. report, run-of-the-mill and dull as ditchwater (although ditchwater, especially where stagnant, often provokes quite lively exchanges at committee meetings).

ABBREVIATIONS : C.D.: **Combined Districts.** E.W.: **England and Wales.** F.: **Female.** L.A.: **Local Authority.** M.: **Male.** The Ministry: **The appropriate ministry.** M.O.H.: **Medical Officer of Health.** P.H.I.: **Public Health Inspector.** R.D.: **Rural District(s).** R.G.: **Registrar General.** T.: **Total.** U.D.: **Urban District(s).**

VITAL STATISTICS

(1957 figures in brackets).

POPULATION :

The mid-year 1958 home population as estimated by the Registrar General totalled 105,990 (106,290) distributed as follows:—

Henley Borough	...	8020	(8000)
Bicester U.D.	...	5860	(5480)
Thame U.D. ...	...	3720	(3720)
Bullington R.D.	...	39600	(39650)
Henley R.D. ...	...	20880	(20810)
Ploughley RD.	...	27910	(28630)

LIVE BIRTHS :

There were 983 M and 936 F, totalling 1,919. These are itemised under the various authorities and give a Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population of 19.1, compared with a provisional E.W. figure of 16.4.

STILL BIRTHS :

There were 12 M and 19 F, totalling 31. These are itemised under the various authorities, and give a still birth rate of 15.9 per 1,000 total (live and still) births compared with a provisional EW. figure of 21.6.

TOTAL (LIVE AND STILL) BIRTHS :

995 M and 955 F, totalling 1,950.

DEATHS :

There were 491 M and 477 F, totalling 968. These are itemised under the various authorities and give a death rate per 1,000 population of 9.1 compared with the E.W. rate of 11.7.

PRINCIPAL GROUP CAUSES OF DEATH :

	M	F	T	As a %age of all deaths.
Heart Disease ...	191	231	422	43.5
Cancer ...	107	90	197	20.3
Chest Disease ...	62	61	123	12.7

PRINCIPAL INDIVIDUAL CAUSES OF DEATH :

	M	F	T	As a %age of all deaths.
Vascular lesions of the nervous system, including "stroke"	62	94	156	16.1
Coronary Disease ...	79	49	128	13.2
Pneumonia ...	41	44	85	8.8
Cancer of the lung	39	5	44	8.0
				(M only)
				4.5
				(Total)
Bronchitis ...	15	12	27	2.8
Cancer of the breast	—	25	25	5.3
				(F only)
Road Deaths ...	19	1	20	4.0
				(M only)
				2.1
				(Total)
High Blood Pressure with heart disease	7	13	20	2.1

A glance at the above figures should show any man who does not insist on remaining blind that, as far as the C.D. is concerned, heavy tobacco smoking remains quite an efficient way of committing suicide. In view of public apathy and even resistance one is tempted to wonder just how many people will have to die of lung cancer before this fact is really believed. Male Deaths show an increase of 32% on the 1957 figure whereas Female Deaths are down by a sixth. Devotees of the Diesel fume and factory smoke screen will presumably argue that the female sex, being the more fastidious, omits to breathe in the streets or when living in a

smokeless zone. Meanwhile the government pursues their (or is it their ?) policy of masterly baby-handing, advertisements by the hundred tell you how cosy, how romantic, how satisfying, how manly, indeed how everything except how smelly and how lethal it is to smoke, and every other teenager already has a cancer-stick on his or her lip. I am unfortunately not able to say whether the position in E.W. is the same as that in the C.D. for this information will be in the R.G.s quarterly report for which I must not wait. But on the **local** evidence I can do no less than say that any parent who permits, far less encourages, an adolescent in their charge to begin to smoke is guilty, at the worst of manslaughter, at the best of feeble-mindedness and should be locked up forthwith.

MATERNAL DEATHS AND MORTALITY RATE :

One death from maternal causes occurred during the year, giving a rate of 0.51 per 1,000 total (live and still) births. The E.W. figure is not yet available.

INFANT DEATHS AND INFANT MORTALITY :

Deaths under 1 year totalled 34, giving a rate of 17.8 per 1,000 live births. The provisional E.W. figure is 22.5.

The Ministry this year for the first time require details (which have been given in this report for some years) of the legitimate and illegitimate infant mortality rates which they describe as

Legitimate deaths under 1 year

Legitimate live births

and

Illegitimate deaths under 1 year

Illegitimate live births

These rates for the C.D. are: Legitimate0178
Illegitimate0147

or, quoted per 1,000, 17.8 and 14.7 respectively.

NEONATAL DEATHS AND MORTALITY :

Deaths under 4 weeks totalled 22, giving a rate of 11.5 (Legitimate 10.3, Illegitimate 14.7). No E.W. figure is available yet.

ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS :

Totalled 68, giving an illegitimacy rate of 3.5 per cent.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

(Other than Tuberculosis, q.v.)

The following is the tally of diseases notified to me which gives an idea of their prevalence during the year (1957 figures in brackets). See also under the individual L.A.s.

Measles	...	...	350	(2172)
Scarlet Fever	...	...	64	(35)
Pneumonia	...	...	30	(85)
Dysentery	...	...	22	(45)
Whooping Cough	...	...	19	(249)
Erysipelas	...	...	6	(7)
Food Poisoning	...	...	5	(6)
Poliomyelitis	...	...	3	(8)
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	2	(3)

Meningococcal Infection	1	(6)
Encephalitis (Post-infectious)	1	(1)
Diphtheria	—	(1)
Typhoid Fever	—	(1)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	(1)
Total	503	(2620)

It will be seen that 1957 was an excellent year with no epidemics. The low incidence of Dysentery, Food Poisoning and Poliomyelitis is probably attributable in part to the chilly, wet summer. The 3 Polio cases were unfortunately all paralytic, but there were no deaths.

Protective inoculation: Small-pox vaccination, Triple antigen (Diphtheria-Whooping Cough-Tetanus), Poliomyelitis and B.C.G. are all available through the County Health Services. I have been happy to assist the County Medical Officer in the giving of Anti-poliomyelitis and B.C.G. injections.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases notified during 1957 numbered 49 (42 Pulmonary and 7 Non-pulmonary). See also under individual L.A.s.

Deaths number ⁸⁴~~81~~ (73^{ALL} Pulmonary and 8 Non-pulmonary). See also under individual L.A.s.

The above figures compare favourably with the 1957 figures. The incidence rates are lower than last year and lower than those for E.W.

The death rate is higher than last year (0.13 as against 0.08 per 1,000 population), but this need not cause alarm as the figures under consideration are small and 1 death more or less makes a disproportionate difference in the rate. All the deaths occurred in Pulmonary cases. It is not possible to compare the death rate with the national figure which will not be received until July.

MASS MINIATURE RADIOGRAPHY.

The C.D. are covered by two units. No. 1 Unit of the Oxford Regional Hospital Board, with Headquarters in Northampton, deals with the Bicester U.D. and the Ploughley R.D. The organising secretary reports that a total of 3,113 persons were x-rayed and comments as follows:—

“Although numbers are not high, I think the response is reasonable in view of the fact that the majority of the men are already covered in their place of work.”

The Unit based at Reading covers the rest of the C.D. and the latest figures are in relation to Henley Borough and the Henley R.D. 2,197 were x-rayed in the Borough. The figures showed a slight drop over the previous occasion but organised groups of school leavers were excluded on this occasion. The secretary comments:

"It is encouraging to note that a fair proportion of examinees had not previously attended a mass radiography unit."

The latest figure for the Henley R.D. was 2,261 (1,228 M and 1,033 F). Comment as follows:

"These figures show some improvement over the last attendances . . . the extended coverage seems to have been well worthwhile and some villages, notably Nettlebed and Woodcote achieved a very encouraging response rate of well over 50% of the adult population."

HOUSING.

The housing position was fully discussed in the (unread) 1957 report.

In 1958, the constituent authorities built 182 dwellings (analysed under the various L.A.s) and houses completed during the year by private enterprise totalled 531.

The number of live applications for council housing at 31.12.58 was 1,916.

SUB-STANDARD HOUSING.

Caravans.

At the end of 1958 there was a registered total of 887 caravans in the area (589 on licensed sites and 298 on individual licence renewable annually).

In addition to these, unlicensed sites were established during the year in Marston and Shiplake. Public Health conditions were deplorable. In the first instance recourse was had to the Magistrates' Court who found the offence proved and imposed half the maximum fine (which in itself is nugatory). In the other case the Ministry ordered an Inquiry as a result of which the site was required to be cleared. Now some months later between a quarter and a third of the vans still remain in conditions which invite epidemic disease.

As far as can be ascertained, the government are satisfied that no case exists for amending or extending L.A.s' powers in the matter. Obviously a rapid increase in this extremely profitable business is to be anticipated and L.A.s are wasting their time in trying to stop it.

Huts.

The number of huts now occupied in the C.D. is 127, but of these 79 are administered by Oxford City.

THE YEAR AS A WHOLE.

As far as can be judged, in the absence of several vital E.W. figures, the health of the C.D. remained throughout the year favourable as compared with that of the country as a whole. I hope, however, that it will be realised that this must, in no small measure, be the result of the routine work of the Public Health Inspectors who, largely unheralded, keep constant watch over your water supply, your food supplies, your waste products, personal and industrial, your wells, your houses, your infectious diseases, your nuisances, your rats, your mice and, increasingly rarely, your vermin. Without their constant vigilance many of us would be in a

pretty mess and some of us would be already dead. I am only sorry that the comprehensive reports for which I asked them before the Joint Committee decided to cut down have had so drastically to be curtailed.

Your faithfully,

HECTOR MACKENZIE-WINTLE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Municipal Borough of Henley-on-Thames.

(R.G.'s Mid-year 1958 Home Population Estimate: 8,020).

Public Health Inspector:

M. A. STANDISH, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H. (Commenced 1.11.58)

(Previously K. APPLETON, left 30.9.58).

Council Offices, Market Place, Henley-on-Thames. Tel.: 987.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS :

84 (48 M. and 36 F., of which 1 and 2 respectively were illegitimate).

LIVE BIRTH RATE :

Per 1,000 Home population (corrected) 11.1. (E.W. Provisional 16.4).

STILL BIRTHS :

5 (2 M. and 3 F.) All legitimate).

STILL BIRTH RATE :

Per 1,000 live and still births, 56.2 (E.W. Provisional, 21.6).

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES :

122 (57 M. and 65 F.)

DEATH RATE :

Per 1,000 Home Population (Corrected) 11.57 (E.W. 11.7).

PRINCIPAL INDIVIDUAL CAUSES OF DEATH :

	M.	F.	T.
Vascular lesions of the nervous system ...	13	16	29
Coronary disease and angina	9	9	18
Pneumonia	3	3	6
Hypertension (blood pressure) with heart disease	1	4	5

Cancer (22), diseases of the heart (69) and diseases of the chest (13) accounted for 85.3% of all deaths

MATERNAL DEATHS :

Nil.

NEONATAL DEATHS (Under 4 weeks):

Nil.

INFANT MORTALITY :

One female child (legitimate) died in the first year of life.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE :

11.9 per 1,000 live births (E.W. Provisional 22.5).

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

WATER SUPPLY :

There has been no change in the water supply during the year and bacteriological samples have continued to demonstrate the purity of the water.

At the 2,679 occupied dwellings in the Borough (2,620 houses) and 59 caravans) have a piped main water supply—2,615 direct into the dwelling and 64 to a standpipe or shared standpipe.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL :

Chemical Closet	59
Cesspools	76
Main Sewer	2,544

The new sewage outfall works on the Marlow Road came into operation on June 24th, 1957. Unhappily, the effluent has not proved satisfactory and the consulting engineers offer the following explanation:—

- (1) The flow figures taken at the Assenden works from 1951–4 averaged 230,000 gallons per 24 hours and the Marlow Road works were accordingly designed for 300,000 gallons. The latter figure has already been reached at the new works which are therefore working at capacity. The reason for the discrepancy appears to be mainly that one of the old sewers was, unknown to the authorities, cracked and leaking and furthermore that there was an overflow of sewage direct into the river.
- (2) The strength of the sewage has been, largely due to the much increased use of detergents, considerably greater than was expected.

Remedial measures recommended (Spring 1959) by the consulting engineers include—

1. The provision of a balancing tank;
2. Additional filters;
3. Additional humus tank.

The Council have provisionally agreed to the expenditure of £11,000 on the above measures.

HOUSING.

During 1958, the council completed the 10 2-bedroomed and 10 3-bedroomed houses on Abraham's estate, and at the end of the year a further 6 2-bedroomed, 2 3-bedroomed and 16 1-bedroomed flats were under construction.

11 houses were built by private enterprise during the year and 55 more were under construction.

Housing Need:

It is estimated that 70 houses will still be required for general housing needs excluding houses required for persons displaced from houses the subject of Statutory action under the Housing Act, 1957.

Caravans:

On a privately owned site there are 53 caravans occupied as dwellings. The council have issued 6 individual licences for caravans, renewable subject to conditions being satisfactory.

Slum Clearance:

Clearance Orders relating to Grey's Road (No. 3 and No. 6 areas) have been confirmed by the Minister.

Rent Act, 1957:

Certificates of Disrepair—

Applications for	3
Granted	2
Application for cancellation of certificate already received; cancellation granted	1

Inspections made and action Taken:

See summary of P.H.I.'s work for the year.

FOOD INSPECTION.**MEAT.**

Slaughtering. Arrangements as for 1957.

ICE-CREAM.

One new premises was registered during 1958 for the sale of ice-cream, making a total of 41; otherwise, no change from 1957. No samples were taken during the year.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle Ex- cluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total
Number killed (if known) ...	—	—	1	12	4	17
Number inspected	—	—	1	12	4	17
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	1	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	—	—	—	8.3	—	5.9
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cysticercosis:						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalized and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

FOOD INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

In addition to the above carcase the following foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered:—

Beef	93 lbs.	Canned meats ...	100 lbs.
Pigs' hearts		Canned fruit ...	28 tins
(frozen)	25 lbs.	Miscellaneous ...	20 tins
Ox liver	23 lbs.	Potatoes	462 lbs.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS.

As for 1957, with the following exceptions:—

- 1 less registered distributor with dairy premises within the Borough, totalling 4.
- 1 Dealer's licence granted for Sterilised milk.

MILK SAMPLING. MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS.

4 samples of "designated" milk were taken during the year and found to be satisfactory.

NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES ACCORDING TO TYPE OF BUSINESS.

As for 1957 with the following exceptions:—

- 1 less Greengrocer, totalling 8.
- 1 more Hotels, cafes, etc., totalling 23.
- 1 more mixed general shops, totalling 19.

Total food premises 138, including 5 Dairies not listed in 1957. (For inspections, see Summary of the P.H.I.'s work for the year).

FOOD HYGIENE.

At the end of 1958 a start was made to survey food premises under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS.

	M	F	T
Measles	1	1	2

TUBERCULOSIS

New cases	F 1	T 1
Transfers in	M 2, F 3	T 5
Transfers out and recovered	M 2, F 3	T 5
Died	M 2, F 1	T 3

(All above cases were Pulmonary).

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES (Factories Acts 1937-48).

	Number on Register	Inspections Made.
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 apply	9	5
2. Factories in which Section 7 applies	46	14
3. Other premises	22	22
Totals	77	41

No defects found.

No written notices served.

No occupiers prosecuted.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

A copy of the return, forwarded direct to the Ministry of Agriculture, shows:—

Premises inspected	...	...	...	...	...	381
Rat infestation: Major	...	...	...	...	...	2
Minor	...	...	...	...	...	45
Mouse infestation: Major	...	...	...	...	...	0
Minor	...	...	...	...	...	32
No. of infested premises treated by L.A.	...	...	...	...	...	29

There are many rat infestations in the town especially in shops and buildings in the town centre. A survey has been commenced and advice on repairs and rat proofing measures given to the occupiers. These measures are not undertaken by the Council, on the score of expense.

In view of the potentiality of rats and mice to spread disease and the extraordinary amount of damage they can do to foodstuffs and premises this decision seems to me (H.M.-W) penny-wise and pound-foolish.

SUMMARY OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S WORK DURING 1958.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS (including re-visits).

House Inspection:

Under the Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	205
Informal notices served	...	...	...	...	43
Under the Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	37
Informal notices served	...	...	...	...	8
Statutory notices served	...	...	...	...	18
Closing Orders made	...	...	...	...	2
Demolition orders (houses in clearance areas)	...	...	...	...	17
Undertakings given (Housing Act 1957, Sec. 16)	...	...	...	...	2

General Sanitation:

Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	5
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	61
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	19
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	2
Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	75
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	115
Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	4
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	...	...	6

Food Premises:

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	6
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	12
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	6
Fish-shops & friers	...	...	...	...	...	5
Grocers' premises	...	...	...	...	...	10
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	...	5
Hotels, cafes, restaurants	...	...	...	...	...	4
Ice-cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	3

Food shops, re unsound food	...	...	...	...	53
Slaughterhouses, re meat inspections	...	...	...	...	37

Infectious Diseases:

Inquiries and visits	...	...	...	...	5
Premises disinfected	2

Rent Act, 1957:

Visits re application for certificates of disrepair	12
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Notices (additional to Housing):

Complaints received	113
Informal notices served	36
Statutory notices served	...	...	...	...	8
Informal notices complied with	...	...	...	...	33
Statutory notices complied with	...	...	...	...	6

Bicester Urban District.

(R.G.'s Mid-year 1958 Home Population Estimate: 5,860).

Public Health Inspector:

R. J. CONNOLLY, Council House, The Garth, Bicester. Tel.: 90.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS :

117 (68 M and 49 F, of which 1 and 2 respectively were illegitimate).

LIVE BIRTH RATE :

Per 1,000 Home Population (Corrected) 17.6 (E.W. Provisional 16.4).

STILL BIRTHS :

2 (Both M and both legitimate).

STILL BIRTH RATE :

Per 1,000 live and still births 16.8 (E.W. Provisional 21.6).

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES :

47 (26 M and 21 F).

DEATH RATE :

Per 1,000 Population (Corrected) 10.2 (E.W. 11.7).

PRINCIPAL INDIVIDUAL CAUSES OF DEATH :

With so small a total of deaths the individual causes are not significant. The two highest were:—

Pneumonia	4M	2F	T6
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Coronary Disease	2M	2F	T4
------------------	-----	-----	----	----	----

Cancer (11), Diseases of the heart (15) and chest (6) accounted for 68.1% of all deaths.

MATERNAL DEATHS :

Nil.

NEONATAL DEATHS :

(Under 4 weeks): Nil.

INFANT MORTALITY :

One female child (legitimate) died in the first year of life.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE :

8.6 per 1,000 live births. (E.W. Provisional 22.5).

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

WATER SUPPLY.

The regular rise in water consumption continues and the total is now over 1,400,000 gallons per week. Bulk supplies have been taken from the British Railways borehole and the Air Ministry supply at Heyford.

The new 256,000 ground level storage tank was erected during the year and has enabled a reasonable reserve to be built up, greatly improving the general situation.

Mains were extended in the Buckingham Road area to cover the needs of a new housing scheme.

10 bacteriological samples all proved satisfactory.

Of the 1,545 inhabited houses in the town, 1,539 have a piped water supply (1,514 direct to the house and 25 to a standpipe) and 6 are dependent on wells.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL .

Pail closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Cesspools	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Main sewer	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,537

The new works has continued to give very good effluents.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

A new public convenience was erected in Chapel Street.

SWIMMING BATH.

The various improvements effected in recent years, particularly the installation of the hypo-chlorination plant, have continued to give very satisfactory results.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

The work of refuse collection has grown considerably with the town's increase and it is hoped to have a new vehicle in 1959.

HOUSING.

During 1958 the Council completed 2 3-bedroomed houses, 12 1-bedroomed flats and 6 2-bedroomed bungalows. No further housing units were under construction at the end of the year.

11 houses were built by private enterprise during the year and 5 more were under construction.

HOUSING LIST.

At 31.12.58 live applications for Council houses remained at 262.

CARAVANS.

Two caravans were re-licensed during 1958.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

During 1958 the Council ceased to make such grants.

INSPECTIONS MADE, NOTICES SERVED AND ORDERS MADE.

Inspections—Under Public Health Act 1936	...	...	189
Under Housing Act 1936	...	...	193
Notices (all informal) Under Public Health Act	...	...	61
Under Housing Act	...	...	62
Orders made	...	...	Nil.

FOOD INSPECTION.

MEAT.

There are now three licensed slaughterhouses in the town.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle Ex- cluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total
Number killed (if known) ... (approximately)	283	—	51	1305	1262	2901
Number inspected ...	187	—	33	920	850	1990
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci: Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	12	—	—	29	62	103
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci ...	6.4	—	—	3.2	7.3	5.2
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	8	—	—	—	40	48
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	4.3	—	—	—	4.7	2.4
Cysticercosis: Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalized and totally con- demned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

FOOD INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

Meat (Offal)	...	...	...	...	45 lbs.
Sausage	...	...	...	...	32 lbs.
Canned Meat	...	...	...	...	52 tins.
Canned Vegetables	...	...	...	...	19 tins.
Canned Fruit	...	...	...	...	40 tins.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS 1938 and 1944.

There has been no change since the 1957 report (q.v.) in the persons licensed under the various categories of the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 and the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk Regulations 1949).

ICE CREAM.

20 premises registered for the sale of ice cream.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS 1955.

	No. in Bicester	No. of Visits made	No. of defects under Regula- tions discovered	No. of Notices Issued	No. of defects remedied or improved
Licensed Premises ...	21	2	—	—	—
Restaurants and Cafes	8	31	5	—	5
Food-shops, Gro- ces and Green- groces	20	39	14	—	14
Bakeries	3	16	3	1	3
Dairies	4	15	2	—	2
School canteens and kitchens ...	3	—	—	—	—
Factory canteens	1	5	—	—	—
Totals ...	60	108	24	1	24

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR OTHER THAN
TUBERCULOSIS.

No notification of any infectious disease was received throughout the year. I think it is extremely unlikely that this represents the true state of affairs, but I have on more than one occasion asked doctors to submit their notifications and there seems nothing else I can do in the matter.

TUBERCULOSIS.

No new cases were notified during the year.
Transfers into the district: 3 M and 3 F Pulmonary
1 M Non-pulmonary
Transfers out or recovered: 4 M and 2 F Pulmonary
2 F Non-pulmonary
Death: 1 M Pulmonary

FACTORIES ACT, 1937-1948.

(a) INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

	Number in Register	Inspec- tions Made	Written Notices Served	Occupiers prose- cuted
1. Factories in which Sec- tions 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 apply	9	17	-	-
2. Factories in which Sec- tion 7 applies	16	34	-	-
3. Other premises	-	-	-	-
Totals	25	51	-	-

(b) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Defect.	Number Found	Number Remedied	Referred By H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness ..	8	8	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	1	1	—
Insufficient sanitary conveniences	—	—	—
Totals	9	9	—

RODENT CONTROL.

(Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949).

A full return is sent direct to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The following is an extract from it:—

	L.A.	D.	B.	T.
Properties in the town ...	24	1,462	325	1,811
Properties inspected ...	24	1,275	31	1,330
Inspections made ...	48	1,300	53	1,401
Properties infested ...	2	20	8	30
Properties treated ...	1	6	5	12
Total treatments	1	6	5	12

D=Dwelling Houses including Council Houses.

B= Business Premises.

SUMMARY OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S
WORK DURING 1958.

Number of different premises visited	709
Number of inspections made	851
Number of complaints received	279
Number of defects or nuisances discovered	251

Number of notices served (informal)	207
Number of notices served (statutory)	—
Number of prosecutions	—

NUMBER OF DEFECTS OR NUISANCES ABATED.

As to Privies, W.C.s, sink-wastes, etc.	59
As to Drains or Cesspools	121
As to Pigs or other animals	3
As to Cowsheds, Dairies and Slaughterhouses	2
As to Deficient or impure water	2
As to Unclean houses	12
As to Overcrowded houses	2
As to Polluted ditches or streams	15
As to Insanitary accumulations or deposits	9
As to other defects or nuisances	12
Number of premises disinfected	9
Number of water samples taken for analysis	—
Number of water samples taken for bacteriological report	10
Number of wells closed	—
Number of wells cleansed, repaired or deepened	—
Number of new wells sunk	—
Number of houses connected with the water mains (new houses)	31
Number of water certificates granted	—
Number of seizures or surrenders of unsound or diseased food	79
Number of Conservancy closets replaced by W.C.s	—
Milkshops on Register	4
Milkshops, number of inspections	15
Cowsheds and dairy farms on Register	1
Cowsheds, number of inspections	5
Slaughterhouses, number on Register	3
Slaughterhouses, number of inspections	127
Piggeries, number of inspections	5

	No.	Visits
Restaurants	8	43
Butchers' shops including cooked meats	5	42
Bakeries	3	19

Thame Urban District.

(R.G.'s Mid-year 1958 Home Population Estimate: 3,720).

Public Health Inspector:
G. C. SMITH, M.R.S.H., M.S.P.H.I.
Town Hall, Thame. Tel.: 111.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS :

50 (29 M. and 21 F., of which 1 and 2 respectively were illegitimate).

LIVE BIRTH RATE :

Per 1,000 Home Population (Corrected) 13.7 (E.W. Provisional 16.4).

STILL BIRTHS :

Nil.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES :

40 (19 M. and 21 F.)

DEATH RATE :

Per 1,000 Home Population (Corrected) 10.0. (E.W. 11.7).

PRINCIPAL INDIVIDUAL CAUSES OF DEATH :

	M.	F.	T.
Coronary disease	7	3	10
Vascular lesions of the nervous system ...	2	5	7

Cancer (8), diseases of the heart (20) and chest (5) accounted for 82.5% of all deaths.

MATERNAL DEATHS :

Nil.

NEONATAL DEATHS :

(Under four weeks). There were two female deaths, both legitimately born children. This gives the following:

NEONATAL DEATH RATE :

Per 1,000 live births 40.0. (E.W. figure not yet available).

INFANT MORTALITY RATE :

Per 1,000 live births 40.0. (E.W. Provisional 22.5).

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

WATER SUPPLY.

This is as described in 1957. The average daily consumption has, however, risen to approximately 143,000 gallons which repre-

sents an average daily consumption of 40 gallons a day per head for industrial and domestic purposes.

12 bacteriological samples were taken, all of which proved satisfactory.

Of the 1,291 occupied dwellings (1,285 houses and 6 caravans) 1,284 have piped water supply (1,281 direct into the house and 3 to a standpipe or common supply), and 7 are dependent upon wells, the water from which is pumped into the house in 3 cases.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Chemical closets	...	...	...	...	...	14
Pail closets	...	...	...	...	...	3
To cesspool or septic tank	...	...	...	...	...	33
To main sewer	...	...	...	...	...	1,240

HOUSING.

During 1958 the Council completed 2 2-bedroomed flats. No further housing units were under construction at the end of the year.

33 houses were completed by private enterprise during the year.

HOUSING LIST.

There were 37 applications outstanding at 31.12.58.

CARAVANS.

6 caravans were licensed during the year.

INSPECTIONS MADE, NOTICES SERVED AND ORDERS MADE.

Inspections—Under Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	116
—Under Housing Act 1936	...	...	22
Notices served (Informal)—Public Health Act	...	...	19
—Housing Act	...	...	7
Orders made	...	...	Nil.

FOOD INSPECTION.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle Ex- cluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total
Number killed (if known) ...	2073	—	440	2946	3703	9162
Number inspected	2073	—	440	2946	3703	9162
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	34	—	2	9	16	61
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	1.63	—	0.45	0.35	0.43	0.67
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	21	—	—	—	9	30
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	1.01	—	—	—	0.24	0.33
Cysticercosis:						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalized and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES ACCORDING TO TYPE OF BUSINESS.

Butchers' shops	5
Dairies	3
Restaurants	6
Public Houses	15
General Stores	22
Grocers	6

NUMBER OF FOOD PREMISES.

No. of Premises registered under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955:

Sale of Ice Cream	21
Dairies registered	3

NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS.

37.

CONDEMNED MEAT.

Disposed of by incineration, and to approved contractors.

ICE CREAM TREATMENT, ETC. Reg. 1947-52.

No samples have been taken during the year. There are no manufacturers in the district.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS.

61 visits have been made to shops and market stalls during the year and, where applicable, suggestions have been made as to improvements in premises and food handling, to conform to the Food Hygiene Regulations. No prosecutions were made.

FOOD POISONING.

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR, OTHER THAN TUBER-
CULOSIS .

Measles	52M	36F	88T
Dysentery	1M		1T
Totals	53M	36F	89T

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases	2M	1F	(All Pulmonary).
Transfers in to district	2M	2F	(All Pulmonary).
Transfers out or recovered ...		2F	(Both Pulmonary).
Deaths	Nil.		

FACTORIES ACT.

(a) INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

	Number in Register	Inspec- tions Made	Written Notices Served	Occupiers prose- cuted
1. Factories in which Sec- tions 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 apply	37	20	2	-
2. Factories in which Sec- tion 7 applies	6	9	1	-
3. Other premises	2	6	1	-
Totals	45	35	4	-

(b) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.
 Nil.

RODENT CONTROL.

Destruction of rodents at private houses, business premises and at the Council's own properties continues to be carried out by joint arrangement with the Bullingdon R.D.C. The following is an extract from the return forwarded to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries :—

	Houses	Agricultural	Business	Total
No. of properties inspected	83	Nil	3	86
No. of properties treated ...	62	Nil	3	65

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S
 WORKING DURING 1958.

Number of Premises visited	...	...	...	...	219
Number of inspections made	...	...	...	...	415
Number of complaints received	...	...	...	...	73
Number of defects and nuisances detected	...	...	...	...	68
Number of notices served (Informal)	...	...	...	...	105
Number of notices served (Statutory)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of visits to slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	511
Dairies inspected; visits	...	...	...	...	9
Unclean houses; visits	...	...	...	...	2
Overcrowded houses; visits	...	...	...	...	2
Polluted ditches	...	...	...	...	6
Premises disinfected	...	...	...	...	2
Number of water samples taken (bacteriological)	...	...	...	...	12
Number of houses connected to water mains	...	...	...	...	38

Bullington Rural District

(R.G.'s Mid-year 1958 Home Population Estimate: 39,600).

Senior Public Health Inspector: D. S. RODERICK.

Deputy Senior Public Health Inspector: F. A. FAWCETT, D.P.A.(Oxon).

Additional Public Health Inspector: G. F. TASKER.

Council Offices, 76, Banbury Road, Oxford. Tel.: 59227.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS :

747 (382 M. and 365 F., of which 12 and 15 respectively were illegitimate).

LIVE BIRTH RATE :

Per 1,000 Home Population (Corrected) 18.7 (E.W. Provisional 16.4).

STILL BIRTHS :

10 (2 M. and 8 F.: all legitimate).

STILL BIRTH RATE :

Per 1,000 total (live and still) births 13.2. (E.W. Provisional 21.6).

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES :

382 (198 M. and 184 F.)

DEATH RATE :

Per 1,000 Home Population (Corrected) 9.7. (E.W. 11.7).

PRINCIPAL INDIVIDUAL CAUSES OF DEATH :

	M	F	T
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	20	34	54
Coronary disease and angina	31	22	53
Pneumonia	21	22	43
Cancer of the lung	18	1	19
Cancer (71), diseases of the heart (159) and chest (59) accounted for 75.5% of all deaths.			

MATERNAL DEATHS :

1.

MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE :

Per 1,000 total births 11.0 (E.W. figure: not yet available).

NEONATAL DEATHS :

(Under 4 weeks) 10 (4 M. 6 F.—all legitimate).

NEONATAL DEATH RATE :

Per 1,000 live births 13.4 (E.W. figure: not yet available).

INFANT MORTALITY :

(Under 1 year) 15 (6 M. 9 F.—all legitimate).

INFANT MORTALITY RATE :

Per 1,000 live births 20.1 (E.W. Provisional 22.5).

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

WATER SUPPLY.

Work on Stage 1 of No. 1 Water Scheme to serve the Central and Eastern Parishes is now in hand. An excellent and detailed report has been submitted by the Chief Public Health Inspector which I would like to have published in full. In view, however, of the demand for economy this is summarised as follows.

The Watlington Borehole is complete, and the pumping station and reservoir are partially constructed.

Half the Lewknor reservoir is complete, and the pumping station is complete. Installation of the plant has been started.

Milton Common Water Tower has been commenced.

The following mains are laid and tested:—

Lewknor Pumping Station to Reservoir and from Reservoir to Lewknor. Lewknor to South Weston. South Weston to Wheatfield and to Postcombe. Wheatfield to Tetsworth and to Stoke Talmage. Great Haseley to Milton Common. Watlington Hill Road. Cuxham to Chalgrove. Chinnor to Towersey.

Schemes under consideration include extensions to Waterstock, Draycot and Waterperry, Culham, Kingston Stert and Emington, Nuneham Courtenay, the Baldons, Dorchester, Berinsfield and Warborough.

The following additional houses were connected to the mains during the year:—

* Aston Rowant .. 6	* Cuxham 3	† Old Marston 41
† Beckley and	* Dorchester 89	* Pyrton 3
Stowood 3	Ewelme 1	† Sandford 9
Benson 17	† Forest Hill 3	* Stadhampton . . 12
* Berrick Salome .. 6	* Garsington . . . 5	† Stanton St. John .. 1
* Brightwell	* Great Haseley .. 14	* Sydenham 11
Baldwin 4	* Great Milton 13	* Tetsworth 2
* Chalgrove 6	† Holton 1	* Tiddington 12
* Chinnor 32	† Horspath 41	* Warborough 13
* Clifton Hampden 11	* Lewknor 7	* Watlington 18
* Cuddesdon 1	* Little Milton . . 1	† Wheatley 39
	* Littlemore 72	
		Total 497

This total includes 172 old properties.

Suppliers: *—Bullington R.D.C. †—Oxford Corporation.
Remainder are supplied by the South Oxfordshire Water Co.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER SUPPLIES.

The following are the samples taken from non-piped sources with the number of unsatisfactory samples in brackets:—

Aston Rowant .. 10 (10)	Lewknor 17 (14)	Toot Baldon .. 1 (1)
Benson 1 (1)	Littlemore 1 (1)	Towersey 2 (2)
Chalgrove 1 (1)	Marsh Baldon .. 2 (2)	Warborough .. 1 (0)
Chinnor 3 (3)	Nuneham	Waterperry .. 2 (2)
Culham 2 (2)	Courtney 2 (2)	Watlington .. 2 (2)
Great Milton .. 4 (2)	Sydenham 2 (2)	Wheatley .. . 1 (1)

87% of the above samples were contaminated (76% grossly so). It should be borne in mind, however, that many of these samples were taken to demonstrate the unsatisfactory state of the water supply concerned, and were not random samples.

The following are samples taken from main piped water supplies:—

Adwell 1 (0)	Great Haseley .. 6 (4)	Sydenham 1 (0)
Aston Rwant .. 1 (0)	Lewknor 1 (0)	Tetsworth 1 (0)
Chinnor 1 (0)	Risinghurst &	Towersey 3 (0)
Culham 2 (2)	Sandhills 1 (1)	Waterperry .. 2 (1)
Dorchester 1 (0)	Stoke Talmage 1 (0)	Watlington .. 1 (1)

This gives 39% of samples potentially dangerous to health. The samples taken from Adwell, Great Haseley, Lewknor, Stoke Talmage and Tetsworth were all from new public main supplies; the samples from Culham were from a private mains supply. Sampling at Great Haseley and Culham is continuing. An unsatisfactory sample at Waterperry was followed by a satisfactory one. The sample at Watlington was taken from a proposed borehole supply. Contamination in the public mains supply at Risinghurst and Sandhills has now been removed by the suppliers, Oxford Corporation.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

357 new connections were made during the year: 91 of these were to old properties.

The scheme for the relief of the surcharged sewer in Heyford Hill Lane, Littlemore, by diversion through sewers of Minchery Farm, Littlemore, is about 90% complete, and the new pumping station on the estate will be ready to take the flow of sewage early in the new year.

The scheme to extend the public sewer to serve Henton, Chinnor, is considered not justified at present owing to the disproportionate cost of serving the number of properties there.

The Agents for Clifton Hampden Estate have prepared a scheme for extending the village sewerage system to serve property in Watery Lane.

A scheme to overcome the surcharging of sewers at Old Marston (which are now connected to the Oxford City Sewerage System) by providing a Sewage Disposal Works at Old Marston is being prepared but, in the meantime, temporary measures are being taken to alleviate the nuisance.

A scheme to extend the public sewer to serve properties in Shotover Old Road, Wheatley, is being prepared.

HOUSING.

During 1958, 71 Council houses were erected at Dorchester (16 2-bedroom and 55 3-bedroom), 4 (3-bedroom) at Great Haseley and 28 at Wheatley (7 2-bedroom and 21 3-bedroom), a total of 103.

202 private enterprise houses were built as follows:—

Wheatley (44), Old Marston (34), Littlemore (28), Horspath (25), Dorchester (14), Chinnor, Sandford (9 each), Watlington (6), Clifton Hampden (5), Beckley, Benson, Great Haseley (4 each), Culham, Holton, Risinghurst and Sandhills, Sydenham, Tiddington (2 each), Ewelme, Garsington, Great Milton, Stadhampton, Stanton St. John, Warborough (1 each).

SUB-STANDARD HOUSING.

During the year the 17 remaining huts at Chalgrove were abandoned and 43 were abandoned at Dorchester.

The following remain occupied: 29 at Dorchester and 79 at the Slade Camp, Headington (Horspath parish), the latter being administered by Oxford City.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

At December 31st, 1958, there were 624 caravans registered in the R.D. on 152 licensed sites. There is also a varying number of caravans on an unlicensed site in Marston (see Page 6).

DEMAND FOR HOUSES.

At the end of 1958 there were 1,048 applications for council houses outstanding. To replace unfit houses, to abate overcrowding, to re-house families living in huts, and to meet the increased demand for housing of a growing population, it is estimated that approximately 850 houses are required.

HOUSING ACT, 1949, s. 20—IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

In 1958, 98 applications were received, of which 79 were approved, 10 rejected and 9 were still under consideration at 31st December, 1958. Grants approved during the year totalled £17,516 and £18,143 had been paid in Grants by the end of the year for works satisfactorily completed.

HOUSING ACTS, 1936 AND 1957: UNFIT HOUSES.

Demolition Order made—Horspath	...	...	...	1
Closing Orders made—Cuxham	...	...	...	5
Undertakings accepted by the Council:				
Benson, Cuddesdon, Great Milton, Little Milton,				
Wheatley (1 each)	Total	5.		

During the year, six houses were demolished after formal action had been taken; two at Lewknor, one at Littlemore and three at Wheatley.

Five houses were re-conditioned after formal action had been taken under the Housing Acts; two each at Lewknor and Wheatley, and one at Chinnor.

As a result of formal action taken under the Public Health Acts, defects in 46 houses were remedied by owners.

In response to informal action taken during this period under the Public Health and Housing Acts, 381 houses were either rendered fit or improved.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR, OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS.

	M	F	T
Scarlet Fever	9	8	17
Measles	66	66	132
Whooping Cough	2	7	9
Pneumonia	5	5	10
Meningococcal Infection		1	1
Dysentery	4	3	7
Food Poisoning	3	1	4
Erysipelas	2	1	3
Encephalitis—post infectious		1	1
	91	93	184

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases	Pulmonary	8M	17F	Non-pulmonary	3M	1F
Transfers in	„	20M	14F	„	3M	
Transfers out and recovered	„	14M	10F	„	2M	1F
Died	„	5M	1F	„	Nil	Nil

FACTORIES ACTS 1937–1948.

(a) INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

	Number in Register	Inspections Made	Written Notices Served	Occupiers prosecuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 apply	17	38	4	—
2. Factories in which Section 7 applies	79	125	11	—
3. Other premises	35	40	1	—
Totals	131	203	16	—

(b) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Defect	Number Found	Number Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness (s. 1)	3	3	—
Sanitary Conveniences (s. 7)			
(a) insufficient ...	6	1	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	7	3	—
(c) not separate for sexes	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	3
Totals	16	7	3

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

SECTION 50.

Arrangements were made under this section of the Act for the burial of four persons, who had died at Tetsworth, Dorchester-on-Thames, Sandford-on-Thames and Littlemore.

RODENT CONTROL

(Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949).

An analysis of the work carried out under this Act, during the year ended 31st March 1959, show that 1,836 properties were inspected, 240 in response to complaints received, and 1,396 re-inspections were made.

793 of these properties were found to be infested with rats, and 17 by mice, all of which were treated including 828 re-treatments. 183 “block” control schemes were carried out.

It was not found necessary to take any formal action.

A copy of the full table has been forwarded to the appropriate authority—the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

SUMMARY OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS’ WORK DURING 1958.

(Including Food Inspection, Meat Inspection, and the administration of the Food Hygiene Regulations).

Number of inspections made for all purposes	...	...	3,572
Number of additional visits made for miscellaneous purposes			138
Number of complaints received	...	...	510
Number of notices served (informal)	...	...	215
Number of notices served (statutory)	...	...	41
Number of prosecutions	...	...	1

NATURE OF WORKS CARRIED OUT AS A RESULT OF FORMAL AND INFORMAL ACTION:

Number of houses where repairs carried out or defects remedied, including houses where drainage improved including the provision of sinks	123
---	-----	-----	-----

Number of houses where major schemes of improvements were carried out, including houses where complete modernisation of drainage was carried out and connected to sewer	23
Number of houses where major schemes of improvements were carried out, but where new drainage was provided to septic tanks	118
Total number of new houses connected to sewer	91
Number of houses where privies converted to water carriage system	45
Number of houses connected to water mains as a result of formal action	28
Number of houses connected to water mains as a result of informal action	144
Number of water samples taken for bacteriological examination (for details see pp. 27-28)	77

DEFECTS AND NUISANCES ABATED (other than in connection with Food Inspection):

Choked drains and overflowing cesspools cleansed	35
Accumulations or deposits removed	3
Foul ditches or streams cleansed	1
Keeping of animals: unsatisfactory premises dealt with	2
Verminous or dirty premises cleansed	14
Houses disinfected after cases of infectious disease	17

FOOD AND DRUGS.

NUMBER AND TYPES OF FOOD PREMISES IN THE AREA.

Grocers and provision merchants and general mixed food shops	112
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	6
Butchers	19
Fish Shops	3
Chemists	1
Bakehouses	11
Dairies	8
Cafés and Restaurants	17
Licensed premises	129
School Canteen Kitchens	9
Canteens	2

NUMBER OF TYPES OF FOOD PREMISES IN THE AREA REGISTERED UNDER S. 16, FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955:

Storage and Sale of Ice Cream	90
Manufacture of sausages	11
Manufacture of sausages and pickled meat	2
Fish frying	4

MILK AND DAIRIES:

Distributors of Milk	22
Registered Dairies	10

Dealers' Licenses issued to distributors of milk trading from premises in the District, authorising the use of the special designations:

(a) Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
(b) Sterilised	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
(c) Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	12

Dealers' Supplementary Licenses issued to distributors of milk trading from premises outside the District, authorising the use of the special designations:

(a) Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
(b) Sterilised	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
(c) Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	9

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND KNACKERS' YARDS:

Licensed Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Licensed Knackers' Yards	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT:

Licensed Slaughtermen	10
-----------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

MEAT INSPECTION.

During the year, there has been no change in the arrangements for meat inspection in the district. The number of licensed slaughterhouses is one, and as in the case of the past few years, practically no use has been made of it. Meat inspection is confined to routine visits to butchers' shops and also of animals slaughtered as casualties. As in the case of other foodstuffs, condemned meat is disposed of by incineration at the Council's tips, the quantity of meat involved being usually small.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Inspection of food is carried out during routine visits to shops, and also when requested by shopkeepers to examine particular articles of food. Unfit foodstuffs are disposed of by incineration at the Council's tips.

FOOD INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

Canned Jellied Veal	...	...	...	...	...	...	24 lbs.
Canned Corned Beef	...	...	...	...	...	...	14 lbs.
Canned Pineapple	...	...	...	...	...	...	24 lbs.
Canned Orange Juice	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 lbs.
Canned Cherries	...	...	...	...	...	...	5 lbs.
Jersey Potatoes	...	...	...	...	...	...	266 lbs.

INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES.

During the year the following visits to Food Premises in the district have been made:—

Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	252
Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	163
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	34
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

Restaurant kitchens and cafés	...	...	...	...	30
Canteens	...	...	...	...	17
Miscellaneous food premises	...	...	...	...	11
Ice cream stores	...	...	...	...	19
Food vehicles	...	...	...	...	1

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS—SAMPLING.

During the year 29 consumer samples of milk were taken from various distributors in the district, viz:—

Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	15
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	...	...	...	...	...	14
All the samples complied with the prescribed tests.						

ICE CREAM.

During the year, six samples of ice cream were obtained from various dealers in the district. The results of the examinations of these samples are as follows:—

Provisional Grade 1	...	...	...	...	...	5
Provisional Grade 2	...	...	...	...	...	1

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS.

The regular inspection of food premises has been carried out during the year, and it has been noted that a steady improvement in hygiene standards has been maintained. This is particularly true of shops, where improvements to premises and to proper standards of display and wrapping of foodstuffs, has continued. The number of food premises is fairly static except for shops erected on new housing estates; the number of licensed premises continues to decline. Work on licensed premises has been fairly well maintained. The number of major schemes carried out was not as high as was expected, but at the same time, several schemes were in progress at the end of the year which could not be included in the 1958 figures.

ACTION IN CONNECTION WITH DEFECTS AT FOOD PREMISES.

LICENSED PREMISES.

Notices Served				Work Completed			
Defects	Premises			Premises			
General unsatisfactory conditions	6	Major schemes of improvements	...	6
Defective or insufficient sanitary accommodation	6	New bathrooms and/or kitchens	...	2
Absence of, or unsatisfactory washing facilities	2	Wash-ups provided	...	2
Defective drainage	3	Re-decorations or repairs carried out	...	3
Unsatisfactory water supply	1			
Other defects, or decorative disrepair	4			

SHOPS.

Absence of, or unsatisfactory washing facilities	...	...	...	4	Major schemes of improvements	...	2
Other defects or decorative disrepair	...	...	...	3	Washing facilities provided	...	1

BAKEHOUSES.

Unsatisfactory or absence of sanitary accommoda- tion 2	New sanitary accommoda- tion provided 1
Other defects, or decorative disrepair 2	Other defects remedied ... 1

CAFES AND RESTAURANTS.

Defective sanitary accom- modation 1	Sanitary accommodation improved 1
Other defects, or decorative disrepair 2	Other defects remedied ... 3

SCHOOL CANTEENS.

Decorative disrepair ... 1	Complete renovations car- ried out 2
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MISCELLANEOUS FOOD PREPARING PREMISES.

Absence of sanitary accom- modation 1
Decorative disrepair ... 1

Henley Rural District.

(R.G.'s Mid-year 1958 Home Population Estimate: 20,880).

Chief Public Health Inspector: H. G. T. BOLTON.

Additional Public Health Inspector: B. READ.

Easby House, Henley-on-Thames. Tel.: 672.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS :

359 (172M and 187F of which 10M and 10F were illegitimate).

LIVE BIRTH RATE :

Per 1,000 Home Population (Corrected) 17.4. (E.W. Provisional: 16.4).

STILL BIRTHS :

7 (4M and 3F, all legitimate).

STILL BIRTH RATE :

Per 1,000 total (live and still) births 19.1. (E.W. Provisional: 21.6).

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES :

225 (108M and 117F).

DEATH RATE :

Per 1,000 Home Population (Corrected) 10.6. (E.W. 11.7).

PRINCIPAL INDIVIDUAL CAUSES OF DEATH :

	M.	F.	T.
Vascular lesions of the nervous system ...	16	25	41
Coronary disease and angina	16	6	22
Pneumonia	5	6	11
Cancer of the lung	5	4	9

Cancer (51), diseases of the heart (98) and chest (18) accounted for 74.2% of all deaths.

MATERNAL DEATHS :

Nil.

NEONATAL DEATHS (Under 4 weeks):

4 (1M and 3F, one of the females being illegitimate).

NEONATAL DEATH RATE :

Per 1,000 live births: 11.1. (E.W. figure not available).

INFANT MORTALITY (Under 1 year):

6 (2M and 4F, one female being illegitimate).

INFANT MORTALITY RATE :

Per 1,000 live births: 16.7. (E.W. Provisional: 22.5).

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

WATER SUPPLY :

The district over most of its area has continued to be supplied quite adequately by the South Oxfordshire Water Company and smaller areas by the Henley Water Company and Reading Corporation. Well over 90 per cent. of all properties have a piped mains supply.

The South Bucks and Oxfordshire Water Bill was rejected by the Select Committee. The Reading and Berkshire Water Bill, now awaiting final sanction by Parliament, will constitute a Thames Valley Water Board, which will include the Henley Rural District and Henley Borough, and the private companies will cease to exist.

SAMPLING.

14 samples were examined bacteriologically during the year, 2 from mains water supplies and 12 from wells. Both mains samples were highly satisfactory; of the well samples 4 (33.3%) were satisfactory and 8 (66.6%) were unsatisfactory, 2 being grossly contaminated.

SEWERAGE WORKS.

At Goring, 268 properties have been connected to the public sewers, leaving approximately 95 to be connected.

At Nettlebed, 93 properties have been connected to the public sewers, leaving approximately 65 to be connected.

At Whitchurch, the Council have accepted tenders for the sewerage of Whitchurch and work will be commenced shortly.

At Sonning Common, the Council have instructed the Consulting Engineers to bring the plans and details of this scheme up-to-date, but no decision has yet been taken upon proceeding with the scheme.

SEWERAGE DISPOSAL.

Of the 6,388 dwellings in the R.D., 19.5% are now connected to the public sewers, 68% to soakaways, cesspools or septic tanks of varying efficiency, and 12.5% are quoted as having no drainage at all.

HOUSING.

During 1958 the Council built 33 dwellings in Sonning Common (25 3-bedroomed houses and 8 2-bedroomed flats). Private enterprise houses totalled 105, distributed as follows: Mapledurham (33), Goring (26), Kidmore End (14), Crowmarsh (6), Sonning Common (5), Rotherfield Peppard (4), Eye and Dunsden, Goring Heath, Shiplake (3 each), Woodcote (2), and Bix, Chickerdon, Nettlebed, Rotherfield Greys, Stoke Row, Whitchurch (1 each).

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY.

The parishes of Goring Heath, South Stoke and Highmoor were re-surveyed during 1958. Of the 205 pre-war houses in Goring Heath of under £20 rateable value, 97 were placed in category one (satisfactory in all respects); 14 in category two (minor

defects); 88 in category three (requiring repairs or improvements); and 6 in category four (unfit and beyond repair at reasonable expense).

In South Stoke where there are 83 pre-war houses under £20 rateable value the revised figures were: Category one—20 houses; category two—1 house; category three—61 houses; category four—1 house.

In Highmoor there are 63 pre-war houses under £20 rateable value. The revised figures were: Category one—37 houses; category two—8 houses; category three—16 houses; category four—2 houses.

SUB-STANDARD HOUSING.

HUTS.

During 1958 the number of occupied huts on the one remaining site at Whitchurch was reduced to 19 and a start was made with the development of a permanent housing site.

CARAVANS.

There are 5 licensed sites in the R.D., the only large one is at Emmer Green (75). There are small sites at Peppard Chest Hospital (licensed for 15 but only 9 on site), at Binfield Heath (5), Ipsden (6) and Stoke Row (4).

This relatively satisfactory position has, unfortunately been offset by the unlicensed site at Shiplake (see p. 6) which would be a disgrace in any district and remains a testimony of governmental lethargy in the matter.

Individual Licences: In addition to the sites, the Council has issued 95 individual licences renewable annually as long as they prove satisfactory.

The Council thus has a total (excluding the Shiplake squatters) of 194 caravans licensed for permanent human occupation and under regular inspection.

OVERCROWDING AND NEW HOUSING DEMAND.

There are still 38 families known to be without separate homes, mainly young, recently married couples, and in addition other cases are known in which families are occupying accommodation too small for them. At the end of 1958 there were 241 applications for council houses outstanding, 38 of them being from the families without separate homes and 18 from occupants of huts.

HOUSING PURCHASE.

Under the Housing Act 1949 advances for purchase have been made in 47 cases.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Of the applications made for improvement grants under the Housing Act 1949, section 20, 65 were granted by the Council to a total of £18,000 (approx.)

FOOD INSPECTION.

There are now no licensed slaughterhouses in the district. Inspection of meat and meat products is carried out at the 7 butchers' shops during routine visits.

FOOD INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

Meat :

5 tins corned beef	...	...	...	...	...	14 lbs.
4 tins tongues	...	...	...	...	...	8 lbs.
7 tins stewed steak	...	...	...	...	...	7 lbs.
Beef	...	...	...	...	...	18 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Ox kidneys	...	...	...	...	...	6 lbs.

Other Food :

25 tins fruits	...	...	...	...	...	27 lbs.
9 tins vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	10 lbs.
5 miscellaneous tins	...	...	...	...	...	3 lbs.

All this food was disposed of by burying at the Council's tips.

FOOD HYGIENE.

(a) NUMBER AND TYPE OF FOOD PREMISES:

General mixed food shops	...	...	...	...	59
Butchers	...	...	...	...	7
Chemists	...	...	...	...	2
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	6
Cafés, Restaurants, Canteens	...	...	...	...	18
Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	76
School kitchens	...	...	...	...	14

(b) FOOD PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER S.16, FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

Storage and sale of ice cream	...	...	...	...	63
Manufacture of preserved meat	...	...	...	...	1

ICE CREAM SAMPLES:

3 ice cream samples were taken, all of which proved Grade 1.

MILK AND DAIRIES:

There has been no change in the figures furnished in my 1957 report (pp. 78 and 79).

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1933-54.

Licensed slaughtermen	4
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During the year, 309 inspections have been made in connection with the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955. The attention of proprietors was drawn to the under-mentioned defects:—

Food exposed to risk of contamination	...	...	...	5
Defective or unclean sanitary conveniences	...	...	...	6
First aid materials not provided	...	...	...	8
Washing facilities inadequate	...	...	...	8
Defective or unclean conditions of food vans	...	...	...	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diseases notified during the year, other than Tuberculosis :

	M.	F.	T.
Scarlet Fever	8	3	11
Whooping Cough	4	3	7
Measles	6	5	11
Pneumonia	8	4	12
Poliomyelitis (paralytic)	1	1	2
Puerperal pyrexia		1	1
Dysentery	1	—	1
Erysipelas	1	—	1
	29	17	46

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases: 5M and 4F, all pulmonary.

Transfers in: 10M and 10F, all pulmonary except 1F.

Transfers out and recovered: 5M and 7F, all pulmonary except 1F.

Died: 3M, all pulmonary.

FACTORIES ACT.

(a) INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

	Number in Register	Inspec- tions Made	Written Notices Served	Occupiers prose- cuted
1. Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 apply	—	—	—	—
2. Factories in which Section 7 applies	31	34	2	—
3. Other premises	—	—	—	—
Totals	31	34	2	—

(b) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

In 2 cases the sanitary conveniences were found unsuitable or defective. Both cases remedied.

RODENT CONTROL.

A full report has been forwarded to the proper authority, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. An analysis of the work carried out under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 shows that 1,242 premises were inspected, 471 in response to notification. No re-inspections were made. 740 of these properties were found to be infested with rats and 15 by mice. 851 treatments were carried out at 755 properties. No "block" schemes were carried out. No formal action proved necessary.

SUMMARY OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' WORK DURING 1958.

Number of complaints received	...	...	...	...	60
Number of notices served (informal)	...	...	...	...	63
Number of notices served (statutory)	...	...	...	...	27
Number of prosecutions	...	...	...	...	1

NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS MADE:

Re Housing—surveys and disrepair	...	...	...	...	1,250
„ Public cleansing	...	...	...	...	475
„ Food hygiene	...	...	...	...	309
„ Caravans and moveable dwellings	...	...	...	...	250
„ Factories and work-shops	...	...	...	...	40
„ Dairies and milk-shops	...	...	...	...	35
„ Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	25
„ Water supplies	...	...	...	...	35
„ Infectious disease cases	...	...	...	...	11
„ Drainage and cesspools	...	...	...	...	450
„ Public Health nuisances	...	...	...	...	210
„ Ice cream premises	...	...	...	...	40
„ Re-visits to premises under notice	...	...	...	...	300
					<hr/> 3,430 <hr/>

NUMBER OF DEFECTS OR NUISANCES ABATED.

As to Accumulation and deposits	...	...	...	...	12
As to Privies, W.C.s, Sink Wastes, etc.	...	...	...	...	5
As to Drains and cesspools	...	...	...	...	18
As to Pigs and other animals	...	...	...	...	9
Number of premises disinfected	...	...	...	...	6
Number of premises disinfested	...	...	...	...	7
Number of conservancy closets replaced by W.C.s	...	...	...	...	56
Number of wells closed and main water provided	...	...	...	...	1
Water samples taken for analysis	...	...	...	...	14

HOUSING REPAIRS :

Remedying dampness	...	...	...	...	...	19
Roof repairs	...	...	...	...	...	24
Guttering	...	...	...	...	...	16
Floors	...	...	...	...	...	14

INFORMAL ACTION BY THE OWNERS:

No. of houses within Survey re-conditioned or improved	56
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ACTION ARISING UNDER HOUSING ACTS:

Sec. 9 Housing Act, 1957—

No. of notices served	2
No. of notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	2
No. of notices outstanding	1

Sec. 16 Housing Act, 1957—

No. of Demolition Orders served	10
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No. of Demolition Orders outstanding	14
No. of Demolition Orders—			
(a) Occupied premises	4
(b) Unoccupied premises ...	...	...	10
No. of undertakings accepted not to use for human habitation ...	...	...	9
No. of undertakings outstanding ...	...	...	25
No. of houses demolished ...	...	...	6
No. of houses made fit ...	...	...	3

Ploughley Rural District.

(R.G.'s Mid-year 1958 Home Population Estimate: 27,910).

Chief Public Health Inspector: B. P. GARROD, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

G. A. HUDSON, M.A.P.H.I.

A. W. EASTES, M.A.P.H.I. (Resigned 30/9/58).

R. M. CLAYTON, M.R.S.H. (From 24/10/58).

Waverley House, Bicester. Tel.: Bicester 154.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS :

562 (284M and 278F, of which 8 and 5 respectively were illegitimate).

LIVE BIRTH RATE :

Per 1,000 Home Population (Corrected) 23.6. (E.W. Provisional 16.4).

STILL BIRTHS :

7 (2M and 5F, of which 1F was illegitimate).

STILL BIRTH RATE :

Per 1,000 total (live and still) births 12.3. (E.W.. Provisional 21.6).

DEATHS :

152 (83M and 69F).

DEATH RATE :

Per 1,000 Home Population (Corrected) 8.4. (E.W. 11.7).

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

WATER SUPPLY.

During the year the water main was being extended from Hardwick to Stoke Lyne and larger diameter pipes were laid at Kirtlington.

232 houses, excluding married quarters, were connected to a main water supply, during the year.

SAMPLES :

70 specimens of water were examined, 42 from mains and 28 from wells. One third of the mains samples showed danger to health. and 71% of the wells supplies. It should be borne in mind, however, that while the mains samples were routine checks, the wells samples were largely concentrated on suspected supplies.

SEWERAGE.

New sewers were constructed in Fritwell, and a sewerage scheme is in progress at Bletchingdon. The second part of the Yarnton works and an extension of the Kidlington works are also in progress.

NEW CONNECTIONS.

During the year 213 new connections to new and old properties were made, as follows: Kidlington (103), Yarnton (49), Fritwell (29), Ambrosden (9), Gosford and Water Eaton (5), Lower Heyford, Fringford (4 each), Hethe (3), Bucknell, Islip (2 each), Finmere, Launton, Shipton (1 each).

HOUSING.

During 1958 4 bungalows were erected by the Council, 2 at Hethe and 2 at Lower Heyford.

During the year a total of 169 private enterprise houses were built, as follows: Kidlington (104), Yarnton (36), Horton-cum-Studley (7), Gosford and Water Eaton (5), Weston-on-the-Green (3), Begbrook, Bucknell, Hampton Gay and Poyle, Islip (2 each), Ambrosden, Ardley, Arncott, Fritwell, Lower Heyford, Merton (1 each).

SUB-STANDARD HOUSING.

The R.D. have no huts and no licensed caravan sites. No known unlicensed sites exist. 98 caravans on individual annual licence are scattered throughout the district. Proposals are again in hand for the establishment of a council-run site.

OVERCROWDING AND HOUSING DEMAND.

There is little overcrowding by the official standards but these are very low. At the end of 1958 there were 258 applications for Council houses, an increase of 66 on the 1957 figures.

HOUSING ACT, 1957.

SECTION 16 :

Demolition orders served	...	...	...	...	2
Undertakings accepted not to use for human habitation					1
Houses demolished	...	...	...	...	17
Houses made fit	...	...	...	...	2

UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED :

	By Owner	By L.A.
After informal action by L.A.	128	—
After formal action under Public Health Acts	4	3
After formal action under:		
Secs. 9 & 16 Housing Act, 1957	1	—
Sec. 24 Housing Act, 1957 (Demolition order revoked)	1	—

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Under the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958.

Number of applications received	...	44
Number of applications approved by L.A.	...	44
Number of applications withdrawn after approval	...	6

RENT ACT, 1957.

PART 1. APPLICATIONS FOR CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR.

Number of applications	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of decisions to issue certificates in respect of some but not all defects	...	...	...	...	...	2
Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	...	...	...	...	...	2

FOOD INSPECTION.

There are six general slaughterhouses, a bacon factory and a knacker's yard in the district. To give full protection to the public a 100% inspection of all animals intended for human consumption is made.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle Ex- cluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total
Number killed (if known) ...	509	3	48	5761	36757	43078
Number inspected	509	3	48	5761	36757	43078
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	16	57	73
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	20	1	—	247	3962	4230
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	3.9	33.3	—	4.56	10.9	9.8
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	1	—	—	4	6
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	1	—	—	2921	2925
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.78	66.6	—	—	8.06	6.8
Cysticercosis:						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	—	—	—	—	1
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	1	—	—	—	—	1
Generalized and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

4 specimens of meat were sent to the Public Health Laboratory for confirmation of diagnosis.

CONDEMNED FOOD.

NOTE BY THE M.O.H.

The usual very full and detailed return has been forwarded to me by the Chief P.H.I. Readers of previous reports will remember the scope and accuracy of this return and it is with great regret that I am omitting it this year, since it shows how vigilant are the R.D.'s staff in the matter and what a very large amount of work they put in to protect the public. As, however, this list has been specifically mentioned by members of the Joint Committee as being expendable in the interests of economy, and as the entire financial burden of the report falls on the L.A.s without reimbursement, I reluctantly and much against my better judgment accede to their wishes in the matter. (H.M.W.)

METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD.

Condemned meat is stained and processed for fertilisers, manures and animal feeding. Other condemned food is burnt and/or buried.

PRECIS OF CONDEMNED FOOD LIST.
TOTAL WEIGHT OF FOOD CONDEMNED.

	Tons	cwt.	qtrs.	stones	lbs.
Meat	38	13	2	1	1
Tinned Foods		1		1	
Other Foods			3		9½
	38	14	5	2	10½

NUMBER AND TYPE OF FOOD PREMISES IN THE AREA:

Grocers	56
Public Houses	59
Butchers' Shops	14
Bakehouses	1
Confectioners	21
Off-licence Premises	4
Fried Fish Shop	1
Greengrocers	5
Dairies	9
Cafes	7
Bacon Factory	1
Grain Drying Depot	1
Ministry of Food Buffer Depot	1
	180

REGISTERED UNDER SEC. 16, FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

For sale of ice cream—65 (inspections made 95).

Preparation and manufacture of sausages—5 (128).

Curing bacon—1 (52).

Preparation of fish by cooking—1 (6).

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949—REGISTRATIONS.

As distributors of milk	...	...	...	...	...	9
Premises not dairy farms in use as such	...	...	...	...	...	9

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949—LICENCES ISSUED.

Supplementary Licences, to use designation—						
“Pasteurised”	...	...	...	...	...	11
“Sterilised”	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dealers’ Licences to use designation “Pasteurised”	...	...	...	...	...	10

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS 1949—LICENCES ISSUED.

Supplementary Licences, to use designation “Tuberculin Tested”	...	...	...	...	...	12
Dealer’s Licences, to use designation “Tuberculin Tested”	...	...	...	...	...	9

ICE CREAM.

60 samples were taken and submitted for laboratory examination. 59 (98%) were returned satisfactory. The test is not reliable and of little practical value.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955–6.

The work of Food Hygiene is continuing steadily and improvements in premises and equipment are still taking place. Advice to all persons handling food is given in an attempt to prevent unsatisfactory methods being used. Many of the practices still used should be easily remedied if food handlers gave a little thought to the elementary standards required. Warnings have been given to persons smoking while handling food and legal action may be taken in the future if they still continue to ignore the warnings. Whilst it is essential that smoking should be prohibited for food handlers, it is also difficult to impress this on shop-keepers, etc. if customers are allowed to smoke in the same food shops. Admittedly, the food handler is actually handling the open food and the food should be protected from the customers, but if smoking were prohibited in all food shops it would be a good example to all in the food trade.

Great improvements have been made in the equipment of licensed houses and a higher standard is now apparent in connection with the washing of glasses and the cleaning of pipe-lines.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.
DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR, OTHER THAN TUBER-
CULOSIS.

	M	F	T
Scarlet Fever	18	18	36
Whooping Cough	—	3	3
Measles	61	56	117
Pneumonia	7	1	8
Dysentery	6	7	13
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	1	—	1
Food Poisoning	—	1	1
Erysipelas	2	—	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	1	1
	95	87	182

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases:	Pulmonary	1M	3F	Non-pulmonary	1M	2F
Transfers in	„	1M	5F	„	„	1F
Transfers out						
and recovered	„	6M	5F	„	„	2F
Died	„		1F			

FACTORIES ACT, 1937–1948.

(a) INSPECTION OF FACTORIES.

	Number in Register	Inspec- tions Made	Written Notices Served	Occupiers prose- cuted
1. Factories in which Sec- tions 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 apply	3	7	—	—
2. Factories in which Sec- tion 7 applies	57	22	—	—
3. Other premises	—	—	—	—
Totals	60	29	—	—

(b) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.
Nil.

RODENT CONTROL.

A full return, under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, was made direct to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The following is an extract:—

Properties inspected	833
Number of inspections, including re-inspections	2,022
Properties infested with rats	248
Properties infested with mice	24

Treatments carried out 1543, including 1 block control schemes
It was not found necessary to take any formal action.

SUMMARY OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' WORK DURING 1958.

Number of complaints received	...	...	...	...	92
Number of Notices served (informal)	...	...	...	...	100
Number of Notices served (statutory):					
Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	8
Housing Act	...	...	...	...	6
Number of prosecutions	...	...	...	...	—

NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS ... 5,910

Houses inspected:					
Public Health Act	...	...	...	...	205
Housing Act	...	...	...	...	159
Visits and re-visits to property under notice	...	...	...	...	1,887
Complaints investigated	...	...	...	...	92
Public Cleansing	...	...	...	...	677
Food Premises	...	...	...	...	344
Infectious Disease Cases	...	...	...	...	50
Caravans	...	...	...	...	399
Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	...	88
Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	24
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	14
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	128
Animal Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	829
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	4
Tinned Foods and other articles of food	...	...	...	...	71
Houses disinfected	...	...	...	...	10
Houses disinfested	...	...	...	...	5
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	78

Interviews with Owners, etc. ... 221

NUMBER OF DEFECTS OR NUISANCES ABATED ... 724

Dwelling Houses:

Repaired or made fit	...	...	...	...	66
Provided with damp-proof course	...	...	...	...	2
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	31
Plastered walls and ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	38
Floors repaired, ventilated, etc.	...	...	...	...	44
Windows repaired, made to open, etc.	...	...	...	...	37
Food stores provided, repaired, etc.	...	...	...	...	32
Stairs repaired	...	...	...	...	18
Skirting boards provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	16
Doors repaired, rehung or renewed	...	...	...	...	22
Firegrates repaired, reset or renewed	...	...	...	...	13
Chimneys or chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	28
New sinks provided and fixed	...	...	...	...	39
Sink wastes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	4
Water supply provided inside houses	...	...	...	...	32
Wash coppers repaired or provided	...	...	...	...	6
Copper firesets repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	1

External walls pointed	...	...	...	...	40
Ovens repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	2
Eaves, gutters and rain water pipes renewed	...	...	...	...	27
Yards and passages paved and drained	...	...	...	...	12
Yard paving repaired	...	...	...	...	11

DRAINS, WATER CLOSETS AND ASHES ACCOMMODATION.

Obstructed drains cleansed	...	...	...	...	6
Yard gullies provided and connected to drains	...	...	...	...	1
Drains repaired or re-constructed	...	...	...	...	26
Inspection chamber covers renewed	...	...	...	...	2
W.C. cisterns repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	1
Closet structures repaired	2
Dustbins provided	78

OTHER NUISANCES.

Abatements: Rats and Mice	87
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